

Program Notice

FGIS-PN-08-06

4-14-08

UNITED STATES STANDARDS FOR SORGHUM

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this notice is to announce that the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration (GIPSA), Federal Grain Inspection Service (FGIS) is revising the United States Standards for Sorghum.

2. EFFECTIVE DATE

In order to facilitate domestic and export marketing of sorghum, and to coincide with the start of the 2008 sorghum harvest, FGIS is implementing these changes effective June 1, 2008.

3. BACKGROUND

The United States Grain Standards Act (USGSA) authorizes the Secretary of Agriculture to establish official standards of kind, and class, quality and condition for sorghum and other grains (7 U.S.C. 76). The United States Standards for Grain serves as the starting point to define U.S. grain quality in the global marketplace.

On September 24, 2003, GIPSA was asked by the National Sorghum Producers (NPS, formerly National Grain Sorghum Producers) to initiate a review of the sorghum standards. Accordingly, in the December 17, 2003, Federal Register (68 FR 70201), through an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) FGIS requested comments on potential changes to the sorghum standards. There were 35 comments to the ANPR. In the March 29, 2006, Federal Register (71 FR 15633) GIPSA invited comments to a proposed rule identifying changes to the United States Standards for Sorghum. There were 11 comments received expressing a variety of views during the 60 day comment period for the proposed rule. Comments were received from sorghum producers, producer and other industry organizations, grain handlers, and a sorghum researcher. GIPSA published the final rule for sorghum standards in the Federal Register (72 FR 39730) on July 20, 2007.

4. REVISIONS

Effective June 1, 2008, the United States Standards for Sorghum will be amended to:

- a. Delete the reference to tannin content from definitions of Sorghum, Tannin sorghum, and White sorghum, and define these classes based on the presence or absence of a pigmented testa (subcoat);

- b. Revise the definition of nongrain sorghum by deleting sorghum-sudangrass hybrids, sorgrass, and adding language referencing seeds of Sorghum (L.) Moench that appear atypical of grain sorghum;
- c. Require sorghum test weight to be reported in tenths of a pound per bushel;
- d. Reduce the grading limit for broken kernels and foreign material (BNFM) and the subfactor foreign material (FM); (see Table #1 below)
- e. Insert a total count limit for other material used to determine sample grade factors; (see Table #1 below)

TABLE 1

Grade	Minimum Limits of -	Maximum Limits of -			
	Test weight per bushel (pounds)	Damaged Kernels		Broken Kernels and foreign material	
		Heat (percent)	Total (percent)	Foreign material (part of total) (percent)	Total (percent)
U.S. No. 1	57.0	0.2	2.0	1.0	3.0
U.S. No. 2	55.0	0.5	5.0	2.0	6.0
U.S. No. 3 ^{1/}	53.0	1.0	10.0	3.0	8.0
U.S. No. 4	51.0	3.0	15.0	4.0	10.0
U.S. Sample Grade:					
U.S. Sample Grade is sorghum that:					
(a) Does not meet the requirements for grades U.S. No.1, 2, 3, or 4; or					
(b) Contains 8 or more stones which have an aggregate weight in excess of 0.2 percent of the sample weight, 2 or more pieces of glass, 3 or more crotalaria seeds (<i>Crotalaria</i> spp.), 2 or more castor beans (<i>Ricinus communis</i> L.), 4 or more particles of an unknown foreign substance(s) or a commonly recognized harmful or toxic substance(s), 8 or more cockleburrs (<i>Xanthium</i> spp.) or similar seeds singly or in combination, 10 or more rodent pellets, bird droppings, or an equivalent quantity of other animal filth in 1,000 grams of sorghum, 11 or more pieces of other material from any combination of animal filth, castor beans, crotalaria seeds, glass, stones, unknown foreign substances, and cockleburrs, or					
(c) Has a musty, sour, or commercially objectionable foreign odor (except smut odor); or					
(d) Is badly weathered, heating or otherwise of distinctly low quality.					
^{1/} Sorghum which is distinctly discolored shall not grade any higher than U.S. No. 3.					

- f. Revise the sorghum breakpoints and associated grade limits for broken kernels and foreign material for U.S. Nos. 1, 2, 3, 4. (see Table #2 below)

TABLE 2
GRADE LIMITS (GL) AND BREAKPOINTS (BP) FOR SORGHUM

	Minimum limits of-		Maximum limits of-							
			Damaged Kernels				Broken kernels and foreign material			
Grade	Test weight per bushel (pounds)		Heat-damaged (percent)		Total (percent)		Total (percent)		Foreign material (percent)	
	GL	BP	GL	BP	GL	BP	GL	BP	GL	BP
U.S. No. 1	57.0	- 0.4	0.2	0.1	2.0	1.1	3.0	0.5	1.0	0.4
U.S. No. 2	55.0	- 0.4	0.5	0.4	5.0	1.8	6.0	0.6	2.0	0.5
U.S. No. 3 <u>1/</u>	53.0	- 0.4	1.0	0.5	10.0	2.3	8.0	0.7	3.0	0.6
U.S. No. 4	51.0	- 0.4	3.0	0.8	15.0	2.8	10.0	0.8	4.0	0.7

1/ Sorghum which is distinctly discolored shall be graded not higher than U.S. No. 3.

5. FILING INSTRUCTIONS

File a copy of this notice with the Grain Inspection Handbook, Book II, Grading Procedures, Chapter 9, Sorghum, until the handbook is revised to reflect the changes that were made to the United States Standards for Sorghum.

6. QUESTIONS

Direct any questions concerning this policy to the Policies and Procedures Branch, at (202) 720-0224.

/s/ John Giler

John Giler, Director
Field Management Division